

95
A
LETTER

TO THE

PRIME MINISTER.



D U B L I N :

PRINTED in the YEAR, M,DCC,LV.

LETTER

TO THE

PRIME MINISTER



DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year 1854.



A

LETTER

TO THE

PRIME MINISTER.

MY LORD, OR SIR,

I SHALL not content myself with beginning, after the Manner usual to Writers in my Class; to declare my own Obscurity; but shall farther declare, that you, notwithstanding your supposed Rank, and Dignity, are with Respect to me equally obscure: For after the strictest Enquiry, for six Weeks past, I have not been able to discover who the Person is, to whom I ought to address this Paper; I know not where to look: I have searched in all the Professions, the Church, the Law and the Army;

Army; in the Treasury and in the Revenue: I have kept my Eye equally upon those in and those out of Employment; and am still so far from a Certainty, that I have not formed a probable Conjecture.

But I shall write on, notwithstanding.—
From the Nature of all Governments, I am morally certain that there does exist a Person, such as I have here supposed; and from the strong Appetite, that so universally prevails in this Nation, for reading every Thing that does not exceed the Bulk of a Three Penny Pamphlet, I am as certain that this Letter will not fail to make its Way into the Hands of him, to whom I would, if I could tell where to go, myself present it. And altho' I may be kept much longer in the Dark, I shall have the Satisfaction of knowing, that some one in the World will receive this Address, and will feel that it belongs to him, beyond all Possibility of mistaking.

To you therefore (that is, to this Person) whosoever, whatsoever and wheresoever you may be, I dedicate myself: I can venture to assure you, upon this slight Acquaintance, that the World is already prepossessed in your Favour. You have shewn your Prudence by concealing yourself from publick Knowledge; and you have a Right to be considered, by all candid Judges, as a Man of Probity and of Abilities, until the Contrary can be charged directly against you by Name, of which there seems to be no immediate Danger: This Advantage you certainly have over all your Predecessors in that invidious Post.

But

But it is Time to proceed to Business ; you must have met with an Advertisement containing a fair and frank Offer of Service from a Gentleman, who, like many other eminent Practitioners, whose Merits are neglected, is reduced to this Method of calling upon Men to attend to their own Interest. Several Persons of great Skill in a particular Branch of Physick, or possessed of *Valuable Secrets*, who, from some Blemish in their private Characters, would have been lost to the Publick, have taken this Way of introducing themselves into the World, and have afterwards been trusted, and performed great Cures. I am sorry therefore to find that this one *Advertiser* of himself, should undergo such severe Censure as he has met with upon that Account only, since the Publication of his Paper.

I converse chiefly amongst People of middling Rank, Traders and others, from whom, it is allowed, the Sentiments of a Nation can most fairly be collected: They are enraged at this Gentleman's Conduct, and are of Opinion that you will have nothing to do with so profligate, and so abandoned an Undertaker. I who sincerely wish, and that for your Sake more than his, (for I have no personal Attachments but to you) that he may be employed, and am labouring to remove this Prejudice. After having used some very strong and direct Arguments without Effect, I insinuated, artfully, that this Advertisement might be published, officiously, by some Friend without his Knowledge. But this Supposition gets no Credit ; every Body is convinced that it is his own Performance ; for they say, that although in the
Parts

Parts of the Description which relate to his moral Character, for which he is the least concerned, there are some Passages of equivocal Meaning, and open to a bad Interpretation, yet the Account given of his political Powers and Abilities is so much above the Truth, that it can only have been dictated by his own Vanity.

Now I am very apprehensive, that if this Opinion spreads, it may make you cautious of hiring this most useful, and willing Servant. Consider with yourself as a Man of Business, which no doubt you are, whether this *Advertiser*, situated as he was, could have steered better, or indeed, whether he had any other Course left to steer, but that which he is now pursuing. —I will explain his Circumstances to you.

During the late Wars in this unhappy Country, the whole Business of marauding, pilfering, spying, picking up of Deserters, &c. &c. has been carried on by the *Advertiser*, a few of the loosest Troops being put under his Command: He was taken into Pay as one of those wild scampering Generals, that we read of in the Northern Armies, who by the End of one Campaign are perhaps enriched with Booty, and before the End of another are hanged: However he began to look upon himself as a real General; he was admitted to all Councils of War, and made to believe that no Peace should be concluded without his having a General's Share in the Distribution of such Territories as should be conceded; this being allowed to be the only Object of the War, the Terms were satisfactory.

You

You cannot but have been very attentive to the general Aspect of Things, upon the Arrival of a certain very great Person in this Kingdom. Every Man in it of a good Understanding expected and received him with Pleasure. If a Peace was to be the End, which was judged to be his Inclination, they knew it would be solid and honourable; or if the War must continue, that it would be carried on with Consistency and Vigour, and supported with real Strength and Resolution, and that every Body would be able to understand for whom they fought, under whom, and in what Cause. The Issue of such a War could not be uncertain, nor its Duration long. The Generals, under whom the *Advertiser* served, knew this, and had early Thoughts of securing themselves by Treaty: If the publick and national Distresses and Mischiefs which they have brought upon their Country by their resolute Defence of it against No Enemy, No Attack, No Danger, but against its best and only substantial Friends could have been longer born with Patience by them, yet their own private Losses began to make this War highly inconvenient to themselves, and rendered them extremely solicitous to find or to make a Way out of it; — Upon this Business they were assembled one Morning, and were considering how to make their Retreat from the People whom they had deluded: They were conscious, and amongst one another did not scruple to confess that there was no One Point in Question of general Import to this Country, that they had to insist upon; that if what they insisted upon could be carried, or if carried, could be of any Advantage, that they had

had raised Expectations which they could not gratify either by Power or Opposition, and were consequently as much embarrassed as ever popular Leaders were. So that some Plan must be struck out to shift the Ground.

At this Time, our *Advertiser* happening to pass by the House where this Company was assembled, the Appearance at the Door alarmed him; but he entered, and was directed to a Room appropriated for the Reception of importunate and unseasonable Visitors: Here he remained for some Time exposed to the contemptuous Sneers of Servants, besides the Tumults that must have raged within his own Breast. How long he staid is uncertain; but you must imagine that

“Each short Moment, was an Age of Pain.”
At last he flung out of the House in an Agony of Passion, Disappointment, and Despair; and was followed with a fresh Insult, in the Form of an Apology from one of these faithless and insolent Friends, that they were met only upon some Family Affairs.

You will perhaps wonder that one in my low Condition of Life should be so minutely informed of what passes among my Superiors: But if you have been long practised in Business here you must know, and if you have not you will soon learn, that there are no such Things as Secrets in this Kingdom.

Your Principal, and perhaps you, have been accustomed to a different Manner of transacting than what obtains here, and at first may be led into Mistakes. Where Matters of real Moment are in Agitation, Treaties between States are carrying on; or Fleets to be fitted out for
Expeditions

Expeditions to distant Countries, the Measures ought certainly to be settled among a few Persons of the first Rank, Station, and Confidence : The Secret ought to be kept, as great Inconveniences might follow upon publishing such Ministerial Councils.

But with us, Things are quite upon another Footing ; Ministers here have in reality nothing to do ; because all is done for Them. And therefore, least the Profession should starve, They are forced to make Business for themselves. The common, and hitherto, the successful Way, has been to bring the People to believe, They suffer Something, that They do not feel ; They are to lose Something, that They do not possess ; and are to acquire Something that They do not want : and to persuade Them, that these Ministers whilst they are in Truth only getting Drunk, are labouring to attain these Ends. Communication is therefore here as necessary to the Support of a Ministry, as Secrecy is elsewhere.—For this Reason, the Ministerial Subalterns are quite of a different Cast.—There you see young Men bred in Offices, sober, modest, grave, diligent, of some Degree of Literature employed, countenanced, and raised in the World, who would here be utterly useless in Business. Here you will see Bullies, Pimps, and Bricklayers, parading through the Streets in Chariots, sitting Familiarly by the Side of Men who claim to be the first in their Country. If you hear a Groan from the Gallery of the Play-House,—It issues from the Lungs of a Minister. If you see a Bundle of Furze on fire in the Streets—You will see a Minister hallowing and dancing round

round them. And even at this Moment it is more than probable you have one of these Ministers either in your House, or about the Door of your House, or below in the Offices of your House, or above upon the Tiles of your House, pretending only to offer his Service officiously to you, for some mean Purpose, and yet carrying in his Breast, some very deep and dangerous Design, which he is Commissioned to execute.

You are not therefore to be surprized if every thing that you say, nor if every thing that your Principal has said, or perhaps what he has not said, is in a few Hours echoed through the Town, and communicated by circular Letters through the Country, you see the Necessity of this Communicativeness—it is the Life of Administration. All that passes in such Conferences, must be conveyed through the regular Channel to the People: Now and then indeed it happens by these Means, that things come to be known which ought to be concealed, and so I got the Knowledge of this disagreeable Adventure of the *Advertiser*.

But since it has befallen Him, it is your Business to make the best Use of It,—He has offered Himself roundly to you; you are in my Opinion, not to consider whether this Offer proceeded from Necessity, or from Choice.—I am entirely for your taking Him, and for the following Reasons.

He will in the first Place serve you *Thoroughly*, I use that Word, as I think it expresses more than *Faithfully*, and is more a Term of Business. Other Men who offer, may have little Scruples about unsaying what they said

said a Year ago, though they knew they were wrong, but the *Advertiser's* free Spirit will dash at once into the thickest Covers, and drive through the deepest Grounds, without stopping to draw Breath.

Others may have more to please than themselves; and have the Tempers of their Friends and Followers to manage besides their own, and be Distressed upon Points of Honour, a Tie equally binding under the most dishonourable Engagements, which may make them appear backward, even when they are most willing; But in this the *Advertiser* has a manifest Advantage over his late Allies; He seems to have foreseen this Difficulty, and to have provided against it.—When you have Himself; you have all that belongs to Him; He may say with the Philosopher, He carries all that He is worth about Him: For so far from being incumbered with Connections, that might hamper him in taking a quick Turn, I verily believe he has neither Follower, nor a Friend in the World.

Others also may be, or may pretend to be Stiff in some particular Opinion, which may make it necessary to spend Time in explaining Measures to them.—the *Advertiser* has no Prejudices, nor no mean Tricks of this Sort, you are only to tell him what you would have, and he comes roundly into it at once. Build Barracks, enquire afterwards into the Building; fortify Towns and Garrisons; contract Debts, pay-them off, contract new Ones; encourage Libels, hang the Libellers. He is ready for all Sorts of Work, and will fail you at none.

It

It has been intimated by those who look with Envy at his Abilities, and grudge by Anticipation, the Rewards which must one Day attend them, as if he wanted the very Basis of all political Virtue, I mean personal Courage : I believe in private Transactions between Man and Man, some Accidents have happened to Countenance this ill-natured Insinuation : but this ought by no means to be a Bar to your engaging with Him ; For he is never afraid but when he is weakest ; and he will be so sure from the Moment He is in your Service, that He is of the strongest Side, that you will not imagine from his Behaviour, that his Breast could ever harbour so mean a Passion as Fear.

You may after all entertain some Doubt whether this Offer of his be Genuine : or possibly the many Scandalous Misrepresentations known to have been made of Him, and many Other worthy Persons may have made some Impression upon you, so as to Cause Doubts and Apprehensions whether it may be quite safe to trust Him ; at least without a Probation : If you choose therefore not to hazard an Employment in his Hands in the first Instance, you may try the Experiment cheaper, and if you will make a Tender of two or three Hundred Pounds in Hand, you will judge by the Manner of his Acceptance, whether He answers the *Touch*, and whether my Partiality to him has carryed me too far in recommending him as a most worthy Object of your Encouragement.

After having now given you such Reasons as occur to Me for your Receiving the *Advertiser's* Offer, (which I own I wish to see done) I will very candidly mention the only Objections

ons which I can possibly see against your closing with Him.

The first respects the Conduct of this able and active Servant whom I would recommend, towards the Chief Governor immediately on his entering upon his Office.—His Singularity in not paying his Personal Duty to Him on his Arrival, I shall not bring to Account, it has been already so well accounted for, and so clearly excused by the *Advertiser* Himself. But the Stain I mean to wipe off is the endeavouring to make the Chief Governor's Attention to the publick Service on the Time of general Alarm, a Subject of Ridicule, His Imputation of a dangerous Design upon the Liberty and Property of this Country, long since formed and still carried on by his M——, and each of his successive Ministers, by every L—d L——t chosen and appointed for that very Purpose, with an Insinuation that the present Chief Governor, has undertaken the Conducting and compleat finishing this Design, without however being entirely trusted with the Nature and Extent of the Business He is to Manage: This has indeed a very ugly Appearance, is very liable to Misrepresentation, and if not well considered may create a Prejudice against the great Person, whose Advocate I am yet proud to profess myself, that will not easily be removed; But the true Method of conducting the internal Business of a Country, and we that have no other, understand that better perhaps than any People upon Earth, affords an easy Apology for this grand Article of the Charge against my Friend, which will appear after

after all upon an impartial Enquiry, to want but a little Candour to excuse it.

“ Twas but a Spark too much of Patriot Fire.” If we Reflect a Moment upon the Motives of this Conduct, How Strong were the Calls of Fidelity to his present Engagements? How pressing the Necessity of the Service which he was at that Time enlisted in? and what Generosity appeared on his Part to continue his indefatigable Endeavours to Support the Cause he was engaged in, when They who were equally concerned, and from whom his Reward was to come, withdrew their Countenance and their Confidence from him! certainly his contriving and executing so bold a Measure, which he knew perfectly was consistent with their Plan, when he was not admitted to their Councils, and when all Attachments seemed to be loosening, must be owned to be an Instance of unexampled Zeal. This eager Pursuit of his Game to the last, this flying at the Throat, and keeping the Hold in the last Extremities of Dissolution, are Qualities so valuable and so respectable even in the brute Animals, that how ought they to be cherished in Superior Beings, where there is Reason and Morality to direct them? Add to this that He is ready to make so full an Apology, so entire a Submission for this Step, and can give such authentick Proofs, and Vouchers from his old Friends, that no Treason, but only a little Tricking, was meant, and He is himself so convinced that his unlucky Attempt to ridicule, diverted no Body, the Terror held out frightened no Body, that I think the Difficulty on this Head is not formidable; For you are only
to

to consider what his Powers, what his ~~Actions~~ are, not how they have been applied, always carrying in your Mind, that from this Moment you are to become the entire Master of the Application of them.

Another Objection, is the Censure the *Advertiser* lies under in some severe and narrow Minds, for Ingratitude towards his Benefactors. The latest Evidence that is brought to Support this heavy Accusation, is from a Paper published on the 27th of May last, of which he is supposed the Author, and in which the Characters and Conduct of several noble and great Personages are treated of with some Freedom; —and from this it is weakly argued that though he were to receive fresh Favours from the present Chief Governor, he would yet as soon as his Back was turned, use Him no better than he has done His Predecessors. —

Now, I say, this Reasoning does not hold. — For look into the Catalogue of the Persons pointed at in that Paper, and you will find but ONE to whom the *Advertiser* owed any Personal Obligation; That indeed was a large Debt; but when you consider the present Situation of that Noble Person; that He is now not in a Capacity to do ministerially any Good or Harm; neither to reward Services nor to revenge Insults; and from His Age and Infirmities, never likely to resume that Power: the Objection falls to the Ground; as not affecting the present Case. Our Chief Governor is in the first Place, likely to preside very long over Us; His Age, His Abilities, and the Prospect He has of being Easy Himself in His Government, and of making others Easy under Him,
seem

seem all to promise it. But when the Time comes, that we are to lose Him; His Dignity, His Favour with His Prince, His Credit with the People, and His Talents for Business, so early shewn, must certainly carry Him to a still higher and more conspicuous Point of View, and enlarge His Sphere of Acting; where He will remain unrivalled and unenvied during His Life. Upon this Ground therefore I will venture to ensure Him, that He shall have the *Advertiser* for His constant Follower, and that He will never lose his Friendship nor Support, but by such kind of Disappointments and Disgraces, against which His Excellency, of all Men living, seems to be the best secured.

I have the Honour to be,

My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP's,

Or, I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient,

most Humble Servant.



